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~~30~~ 36. A seal as claimed in claim ~~38~~, in which said sealing member includes at least one circumferentially arranged brush mounting groove formed in said inner arcuate portion of said inner ring portion and said brush element includes a plurality of brush segments mounted within said brush mounting groove, each said brush segment having a packet of bristles with said bristles having tip portions trimmed to terminate along a radius of curvature adapted to form a steam seal with said turbine shaft. —

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~~31~~ 37. A seal as claimed in claim ~~35~~, in which said circumferential row of bristles are disposed in a plane substantially parallel to the principal plane of said rotating component and the ends of said bristles contact the rotating shaft so that the bristles are deflected in the direction of rotation of said turbine shaft. —

REMARKS

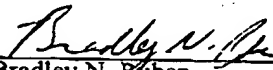
The previous response recently filed addressed all of the issues in the Examiner's communication but included an amendment to claim 10 that inadvertently recited the springs as urging the segments towards the shaft and the working fluid pressure as urging the segments away from the shaft, opposite from what was intended. This has been corrected by the present amendment.

New claims 29-34 have been added which are simpler in construction and are not complicated by reciting structure well-known to those of ordinary skill in the art. New claims 35-37 are particularly directed to the seal structure. In essence, all of the claims recite a seal that is retractable and has brushes, as shown, for example, in Figs. 3 and 8. The bristles may be disposed radially (e.g., p. 21, ln. 13-17) or at an angle (compare Figs. 8B and 8C), and in either case terminate in a circumference corresponding to the outer surface of the rotor (e.g., p. 17, ln. 12-14). No new matter is presented.

The Examiner's courtesy in awaiting this Supplemental Response is gratefully appreciated. The Examiner is urged to telephone the undersigned if there are any issues that may be so addressed to expedite allowance of this application.

The Office is hereby authorized to debit the firm's Deposit Acct. No. 08-2776 for fees under 37 C.F.R. § 1.16(b) and (c) for the additional 2 independent and 9 total claims presented by this amendment, for which the fee is believed to be \$ 378.00, and for any other fees under § 1.16 or § 1.17 necessitated by this paper.

Respectfully submitted,


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I hereby certify that I have a reasonable basis that this paper, along with any referred to above, (i) are being deposited with the United States Postal Service on the date shown below with sufficient postage as first class mail in an envelope addressed to Commissioner of Patents and Trademarks, Washington, D.C. 20231, or (ii) are being transmitted to the U.S. Patent & Trademark Office in accordance with 37 CFR § 1.6(d).

DATE: 23 May 2000

NAME: Brad Ruben

SIGNATURE: Brad Ruben

